

## The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University

### Ohio State Engineer

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# ENGINEERS IN SPORTS

By JOE FENWICK and KEN FRITZ

FOR some reason or other, engineers seem to have a yearning for things that require a lot of hard work to obtain. First, they choose engineering as a career with the idea of plenty of hard work ahead of them. Then they enter the College of Engineering, one of the stiffest courses on the campus. Then for recreation the majority of them choose some rough and tumble sport like football or wrestling. You figure it out.

## Stuart Whitehead

Stuart Whitehead is one of those wise fellows who makes football his exercise, his recreation, his hobby, but not his ambition. Of course, he would like nothing better than to be regular right end on next year's varsity, but still he has ideas of being a full fledged M.E. when graduation time rolls around in 1940.

Whitehead, one of the local boys, graduated from Columbus North in the spring of 1936. He lost no time in starting at State and now he's one of the most popular boys in the Sophomore Class.

Unlike a good share of athletes, Whitehead speaks little of honors won in days gone by. As matter of fact, yours truly learned more about his athletic record talking to one of Whitehead's friends for five minutes than from the interview with him which lasted fifteen minutes.

By very persistent questioning, we learned that Whitehead earned five letters in high school: three in football and two in track. At North, he played full-back, guard and ended up at tackle. Here at State he continued at tackle until winter practice last year when he was changed to the end post. He more than holds his own in throwing weights in track, too.

When asked about the reasons for entering engineering, Whitehead's answers were many and varied. The main reason is because he likes that kind of work. He claims to inherit his mechanical aptitude from his father who has worked along that line.

Of his studies, Stu likes to juggle x's and y's best. Yet in high school he ranked sociology first. He explained that he liked sociology because he got along so well with the instructor. Here he stopped without saying whether the instructor was a man or woman. Here's your chance, girls, to land a prize. At the present time he is open to all prospects. But who knows how long this will last?

Just as your writers were leaving him, he happened to mention that he was on the All-City football team in his Senior year. Really, what can you do with a fellow so modest?

## Richard Wuellner

Something tells yours truly there is going to be a good battle next fall for the center spot. Coach Schmidt has four centers from which to pick one to fill the shoes of co-captain Wolf. Not saying that any of these four fellows can play the position as well as Wolf, but there will be four fellows trying their hardest. At the present time all four have approximately the same amount of experience. One of the group is Richard Wuellner, a fellow engineer.

Wuellner graduated from one of the local high schools, Aquinas High, in 1935. While in high school he copped three letters, all in football. As a matter of fact, he claimed that football was the "only" game. Of course, you could play baseball, basketball or even do a little boating, but they didn't mean much. Wuellner must have done more than just a "little" boating, for he was Outboard Motor racing champion in the Amateur Ranks in 1936.

Wuellner started at Ohio State in the College of Arts. He discovered he didn't like it, so he changed to Engineering. Now he has been in the University three years and in Mechanical Engineering two. Since his studies were mixed up between two colleges, your writers asked him what year he will graduate. His reply was, "You got me, there".

## Nick Rutkay

Realizing that the supply of engineers on the football squad was still rather plentiful, our next job was to decide who would be the next to fall a victim of the press. The first attempt at solving the problem was when someone suggested that we toss a coin in order to eliminate all but one of those who are still eligible for a write-up. Theoretically, this statement is quite logical, but practically it works only when one can find a coin. This, however, was given up as a hopeless task, and we tried to limit our coin tossing

to mental activity. Unfortunately the authors weren't gifted with such mental facilities, so one of us simply closed his eyes and ran his index finger down the list of football playing engineers, and on opening them, the name of Nick Rutkay appeared at the end of said finger.

Our next job was to find Nick, and knowing that football practice was under way, we hurried toward the practice field, hoping to be able to contact the big right guard.

All of us know that a multitude of policemen guard the stadium during game time, but it is also true they don't confine their activities to games alone. On approaching the practice field, we noticed several cops stationed about the field, so we assumed that Schmitty didn't care to have anyone unveil his secret plays. Not being discouraged by this, we slipped inside the locker room, and proceeded to wait until practice was over.

After a few minutes of standing in the door, a rumble similar to an earthquake suddenly arose, and in barged the scarlet scourge at a near sixty mile an hour clip. After narrowly escaping being trampled under the feet of several half ton tackles, we spotted Rutkay, and timidly asked him for an interview. Nick seemed quite amiable, however, and asked us to come upstairs in the dressing room and wait until he had taken a shower. With such massive pieces of humanity dashing back and forth between the showers and the lockers, we rather timidly accepted the invitation, and did a quarterback sneak up the stairs to the dressing quarters. Things only went from bad to worse, however, because Rutkay's locker is surrounded by those of McDonald, Schoenbaum, Kaplanoff, and Novotny. It seems that when the players see a stranger, they think that he is an opposing linesman trying to block them from the shower room, and proceed to rush over him in a manner similar to a locomotive running over a penny which has been placed on the rails. By a bit of broken field running we managed to get behind a locker, and wait until the turmoil had lessened. Finally, with Rutkay's interference, we managed to make it to the door, and proceeded to quieter confines.

By that time, practice had been officially over by at least twenty minutes, but we noticed Ralph Wolf just coming in from the field. If anyone really has his heart and soul in football, it is Ralph. He is practically always the first one out on the field, and the last one to come in. Ralph is really an example of a player who tries to develop his ability to its fullest extent.

But getting back to Rutkay, Nick informed us that he is twenty-two years old, six feet one and one-half inches tall, and weighs two hundred forty pounds. He was born in Youngstown, Ohio, and is a product of Rayen High School of that city. Nick proved himself to be quite an athlete even at that early stage by

earning no less than seven high school letters. As a result of his all-around ability, he was awarded what is known as the Five "R" medal, an award given to all athletes who earn five or more varsity R's.

Nick played three years of varsity football, and although his team never finished a season undefeated, they were city champions. This in itself is quite an honor for a team, because all of us know that in Youngstown, football playing in general is extremely good. It is no surprise that they won the city title, however. On looking over the team's roster, we find no less than five players who are now on the Ohio State squad. Among these men we find Ralph Wolf, who needs no introduction; Vic Marino, an up and coming sophomore left guard; John Simione, a sophomore quarterback; Steve Kopach, a junior right guard, and also a student in industrial engineering; and Nick Rutkay, himself.

In addition to a splendid football record, Nick was also prominent in basketball and track. As a member of the basketball team, Nick gained honor by advancing with his team to the state finals in the 1934 state tournament.

Even though Nick was prominent in basketball, his ability in football is pressed more closely by his skill in track. Nick's specialty in this department is throwing the discus. He competed three times in the state track meet, and on the whole had a very good record. He finished fourth in the state when only a sophomore, advanced to third when a junior, and then climbed to second place his senior year.

With an eye on the future, Nick enrolled in the

College of Engineering at Ohio State University, and is now studying to be an architect.

Classwork does not occupy all of Nick's time, however. He is a member of Alpha Rho Chi fraternity, and, of course, is on the football team. In a previous article, we mentioned that any engineering student who is out for football has all of his time occupied. Nick is surely no exception. In fact, he is just about the busiest man on the campus. When Nick outlined how he spent his time, it was obvious that, providing he could find time, he should read a book on how to live on twenty-four hours a day. Of his time, eleven hours each day are spent on school work. Of these eight are allotted to classroom work and three are used in preparation of lessons. In addition to this, Nick spends three hours each day doing outside work in order to help pay his way through school. Then football requires about three more hours, and allowing two hours to eat, dress, etc. the remaining five are left for sleep and rest. So, it is obvious that Nick finds little time to waste. As a result, Nick has been forced to limit his athletic ability to football and Ohio State has been unable to utilize his talent in the other sports.

Regardless of the fact that Nick has such a heavy schedule, his grades will compare favorably with most of those students who have no outside work. Nick is very fortunate in one way, though. Although he is overburdened with work now, he is sure of getting a job after graduation. In fact, his job is waiting for him. After he graduates, he will become an architect back in Youngstown.